

JOHN W. BRUNER.

MARCH 25, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ANDREWS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7240.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7240) granting a pension to John W. Bruner, etc., having carefully considered the facts in the case, respectfully report:

The soldier responded to the call for three-months' volunteers, and enlisted April 18, 1861, in Company F, Second Pennsylvania Infantry. He reenlisted July 31, 1861, in the First Pennsylvania Cavalry for three years, and again reenlisted as a veteran volunteer February 28, 1864, in Company G, First Pennsylvania Cavalry. The soldier was honorably mustered out and discharged August 16, 1865.

October 28, 1890, he filed an application under the act of June 27, 1890, alleging chronic diarrhea and rheumatism. July 15, 1891, the examining board reports him eight-eighteenths for chronic diarrhea and four-eighteenths for sciatica. This claim was rejected February 13, 1894, on the ground of no ratable disability.

July 3, 1894, he again filed application under said act, alleging sciatica, rheumatism, and chronic diarrhea. September 12, 1894, the examining board reports:

Has chronic musculo-articular rheumatism of legs. * * * Applicant has general senile degeneration to a degree which incapacitates him from active manual labor.

This claim, however, was also rejected on the ground of no ratable disability.

May 13, 1895, the soldier again applied under said act, alleging chronic diarrhea, intermittent fever, and sciatic rheumatism. June 12, 1895, the examining board rates him six-eighteenths for sciatica, two-eighteenths for diarrhea, and three-eighteenths for heart trouble; but the claim was also rejected on the ground of "no ratable disability * * * from causes alleged."

Under a liberal interpretation of the law it is very clear that this claimant should have drawn a pension from the date of his first declaration, to say nothing of his subsequent filings, as the examination thereunder shows him to be pensionably disabled. He had three enlistments, without a hiatus of more than four days, covering the entire period of the war; is now 60 years of age and incapacitated for the performance of manual labor, as evidenced by the certificate of the examining board.

Your committee believe that the beneficiary named in the bill is entitled to at least the maximum rate under the act of June 27, 1890, and therefore respectfully recommend the passage of the bill with the following amendment:

In line 4, strike out all after the word "to," and insert the following: place upon the pension roll the name of John W. Bruner, late a private in Company F, Second Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Captain Higgins's company, First Pennsylvania Cavalry, and Company G, First Pennsylvania Cavalry, and pay him a pension of twelve dollars per month.

Your committee further recommend that the title of the bill should be amended so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to John W. Bruner."

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